

March 19, 2013

**REF: 2013 HB 993: AN ACT CONCERNING DENTAL ASSISTANTS AND EXPANDED FUNCTION DENTAL AUXILIARY.**

Dear Senators Susan Johnson and Terry Gerratana, Co- Chairs Public Health Committee,

As the Division Director of Allied Health at Tunxis Community College, responsible for the administration supervision and curriculum development and compliance, of the only *state supported*, CODA (Commission on Dental Accreditation) accredited, Associates Degree in Dental Hygiene and college credit, Certificate in Dental Assisting Program, I oppose HB 993 in its current format. Previously submitted in 2012, HB 5541 was more specific and comprehensively outlined the criteria and duties assigned to dental assistants and the specified level of supervision.

The current bill 993 does not:

- outline *General Supervision* or *Direct Supervision* directives for EFD dental assistants/hygienists or clearly define when and where they may take place as did bill 5541
- clearly identify nor provide guidance for the number of didactic, laboratory or clinical hours required to meet the clinical competency as did bill 5541
- provide guidance for the responsibilities and procedures and level of supervision by group
- mandate annual registration and maintenance of CEUs and display of licensure or registration for all EFDA Dental Assists and EFDA Dental Hygienists
- provide for adequate time for the presentation of ethical and legal requirements for health care providers

Having taught Ethics and the Connecticut State Dental Practice statutes, represented Higher Education on the 2005 sunset review for the Dental and Dental Hygiene Practice Act which resulted in change to the Dental Hygiene Practice Act, reviewed dental assisting programs for Connecticut State Higher Education and as a member of Connecticut Community College System for over twenty five years, I have the background and experience to evaluate the proposed bill.

I would like the opportunity to discuss the provisions of the bill and the educational implications and requirements for dental auxiliaries.

Respectfully,

*Mary Bencivengo*

Mary A Bencivengo RDH, BS, MS

Division Director Allied Health